

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for managing a supply chain utilizing a network, comprising:
 - 2 a) receiving data from a plurality of outlets of a supply chain utilizing a network, the
3 data relating to the sale of products by the outlets;
 - 4 b) generating an electronic order form based on the data for ordering products from a
5 distributor of the supply chain; and
 - 6 c) providing access to the data utilizing a network-based interface equipped to
7 handle secure sockets layer (SSL) protocol.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the access is provided only after verification of a
2 password and a user name.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the network-based interface is capable of timing
2 out after a predetermined amount of time.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the data and electronic order form is encrypted.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the outlets, the distributor, and a supplier each
2 are provided access to the network-based interface.
- 1 7. A system for managing a supply chain utilizing a network, comprising:
 - 2 a) logic for receiving data from a plurality of outlets of a supply chain utilizing a
3 network, the data relating to the sale of products by the outlets;
 - 4 b) logic for generating an electronic order form based on the data for ordering
5 products from a distributor of the supply chain; and

- 6 c) logic for providing access to the data utilizing a network-based interface equipped
7 to handle secure sockets layer (SSL) protocol.
- 1 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the access is provided only after verification of a
2 password and a user name.
- 1 9. The system of claim 7, wherein the network-based interface is capable of timing
2 out after a predetermined amount of time.
- 1 10. The system of claim 7, wherein the data and electronic order form is encrypted.
- 1 11. The system of claim 7, wherein the network includes the Internet.
- 1 12. The system of claim 7, wherein the outlets, the distributor, and a supplier each are
2 provided access to the network-based interface.
- 1 13. A computer program product for managing a supply chain utilizing a network,
2 comprising:
3 a) computer code for receiving data from a plurality of outlets of a supply chain
4 utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of products by the outlets;
5 b) computer code for generating an electronic order form based on the data for
6 ordering products from a distributor of the supply chain; and
7 c) computer code for providing access to the data utilizing a network-based interface
8 equipped to handle secure sockets layer (SSL) protocol.
- 1 14. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the access is provided only
2 after verification of a password and a user name.
- 1 15. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the network-based interface
2 is capable of timing out after a predetermined amount of time.

- 1 16. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the data and electronic order
- 2 form is encrypted.
- 1 17. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the network includes the
- 2 Internet.
- 1 18. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the outlets, the distributor,
- 2 and a supplier each are provided access to the network-based interface.